

Thank you for your comments George, I could'nt agree more. As the immediate past president of the National Fire Protection Association, and now President Emeritus and Special Assistant to the President of NFPA, I know how hard you and your staff worked to make NFPA the world leader in the development of fire and life safety codes and standards. This is evidenced by NFPA's 300 codes and standards, and the more than 250 NFPA committees, each of which represents a balance of affected interests.

Through the NFPA open consensus process, these codes and standards represent a true national consensus of fire and safety officials and industry experts throughout this nation.

Thanks to your leadership, we now have the world's first ANSI-Accredited Building Code, NFPA 5000 Building Construction and Safety Code.

As you may know, NFPA 5000 is the only model building code in the nation to require that Photoluminescent Exit Signs be listed in accordance with UL 924, Standard for Emergency Lighting and Power Equipment. (Sec. 11.10.7)

As a retired Lt. General in the United States Air Force, I know you will agree with the Memorandum from the Office of Management and Budget, dated February 10, 1998, referred to as Circular No. A-119 (see attached), which establishes policies consistent with Section 12(d) of P.L. 104-113, the "National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995" to direct agencies to use voluntary consensus standards in lieu of government-unique standards except where inconsistent with law or otherwise impractical. The policies in the circular are intended to reduce to a minimum the reliance of agencies on government-unique standards.

While I commend EPA for being concerned, not only with the energy consumption requirements of exit signs, but also with their safety performance, I think you will agree that it is more appropriate for NFPA to continue to address the safety aspects of exit signs, as they have since 1896.

Best regards,

Manny

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>I suggest standards writing be done in the NFPA open-consensus
process.

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file: -- Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary
Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities.htm)